

MINUTES OF THE HENRY'S FORK TRIBUTARIES DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

February 5, 2002

McKinnon Schoolhouse, McKinnon, Wyoming

The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and was conducted by Lee Sim of the Utah State Engineer's Office. Mr. Sim introduced representatives of the State Engineer's Offices of both Utah and Wyoming.

The minutes of the 2001 annual meeting were read by John Larsen of the Utah Division of Water Rights. No corrections were needed to the minutes. Jon Wilde made a motion to accept them, seconded by Carol Buckley. All Approved.

Mr. Henderson discussed the financial report for the 2001 season. He reviewed the finances received from both states. Utah's contribution was \$2,700.00 and Wyoming's contribution was \$5,549.03. Total expenditures for the year were \$8,249.03. Lee Sim mentioned there was one account delinquent in the name of Gene Gamble for the amount of \$124.87. A motion was then made by Jack Hickey, seconded by Earl Hanks to accept the financial report as read. All approved.

Jade Henderson requested a report of the year's activities from Commissioner Farren Johnson. Ferron indicated the snow pack so far this season was considerably less than last year. Hoop Lake did fill and never was below 50% of capacity. Beaver Meadows Ditch developed a break and the required repair work lasted all summer. Island lake which delivers water into the Interstate Canal released water early in the season and ran longer than normal. Some repairs were made to the outlet structure on Island Lake and it contained water later than usual in the season. Ferron recommends that work on Island Lake diversion should continue so the water supply can be relied upon to back up Beaver Meadows Reservoir. The Burnt Fork diversion work is complete and is functioning well. However, the Bluebell diversion needs repair work done. Island Lake needs to be monitored closely because water is leaking under the spillway. This leakage effects flows down the creek when releases are made thru the penstock. The amount of water taken from Island lake is unknown. He also does not know what losses occur in the creek from the Lake diversion down to the Interstate Canal. One visit was made by Farren and Utah Division Rights personnel to Island Lake last season. Ferran suggested remote sensing at the Island Lake diversion would help facilitate releases down the creek. He also mentioned leaks in the diversions on Beaver Creek need to be repaired.

A motion was then made by Earl Hanks to accept Farren's report, seconded by Jack Hickey, all approved.

The Utah water users then discussed the Utah assessment for 2002. Mr. Sim explained a new item that will need to be included in the budget proposal. Because of budget cuts by the governor to the Utah Division of Water Rights, the Division will begin assessing the distribution systems for the calculating and preparing of assessments, processing assessment payments, disbursing of distribution funds, accounting, maintaining and updating distribution assessment accounts, etc. Utah will begin assessing the distribution systems for this service beginning this year and for the next two years. The following years the rate will be 5.0% and 7.5% respectively. He also emphasized the funds will be used only if necessary because of the budget shortfalls. This will be shown as a line item on next year's financial report and the amount used if any will be indicated. This year's assessment will be at 2.5% of the 2002 budget or \$62.00, with the total Utah budget proposed at \$2,537.00 and the assessment at \$2,355.00. All Utah users approved.

Jade Henderson then asked John Yarbrough to give a report on the snow pack so far this year. Snow pack as of this date is as follows:

Hole in the Rock	67%
Hewinta	59%
Hickerson Park	53%
Steel Creek Park	78%
Basin Wide snow pack	65% of normal.

Mr. Henderson requested any discussion about concerns on the system. John Wilde expressed concerns about after the 14 day delivery from Island Lake, and why the water supply didn't last longer. John suggested Island Lake is not being run correctly. Losses from the creek coming down to the Interstate Canal are not fully understood. A measuring device to be installed this season in the creek just above Interstate Canal should help identify those losses and measure amounts going into the canal. John suggested the feasibility of installing a remote sensing station at Island Lake should be investigated.

Jade Henderson stated this stage of the mapping effort from Wyoming is now complete. A priority schedule was requested from Ken Hanks. He thinks that Wyoming is getting the short end of the water supply and that Utah is not following the 3.0 ac. ft./ ac schedule. Jade says the goal of the interstate compact was to develop a unified method of delivery of water to both states.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Those attending the meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Lee Sim	Utah Division of Water Rights
John S. Larsen	Utah Division of Water Rights
Bob Leake	Utah Division of Water Rights
Jade Henderson	Wyoming State Engineer's Office
John Yarbrough	Wyoming State Engineer's Office
Farren Johnson	Water Commissioner
Ken Hanks	Hanks Ranch
Clyde Hanks	Hanks Ranch
Charles Bergmeier	Water User
Douglas S. Beck	Water User
Jon C. Wilde	Water User
Glen Wadsworth	Water User
Fay Wadsworth	Water User
Donald Behunin	Lyman Grazing
Howard Brinton	Water User
Jack Hickey	Water User
Dale Taylor	Water User
Carol Buckley	Water User

Report of the Water Commissioner
Division 4, District 14
Henry's Fork
2002

At the beginning of the water season it was apparent that we were into a major drought. The moisture up to April 15 measured 1.52 inches from all sources. The snow pack was looking better but the most of it was high and there was a band of bare ground from the forest boundary up several miles. My advice to the Irrigators was to start as early as they could and be prepared to share when ever possible. I also advised that they should decide which ground would produce the best Hay and to water that ground well and let the rest lay fallow unless the water was available later in the season.

For the most part the ranchers were very cooperative and helped where they could. None of the creeks had a high water run off and many ditches were never used during the irrigation season. Many ranchers rotated and most everyone had enough hay to see them through.

Several areas need attention, and I will list them individually.

Bluebell; Needs to put the flume and bypass to the creek.

Birch creek; needs flumes and head gates, top down (some are looking into this)

Burnt Fork; the Split in the creek has a major hole that needs repaired and a water control structure.

Wyman ditch needs a new Head gate.

The Ike spring need measuring devices both in and

out of the Ike ditch

Beaver creek the head gates and measuring devices are in the best condition of the system.

Henrys Fork is due for evaluation from beginning to end There are many diversions to the North that need attention. The agreement that we reached with Ponderosa (John Eyre) on the Hickey ditch is that the water for Jack Hickey (7/12) of the ditch will flow through the pond and Ponderosa water (5/12) will flow around the pond to the west. We also need to enforce the installation of a flume in the first outlet in the ditch west of the pond. Should they begin to Irrigate BLM land to the north and east of the pond they will be shut off and the Commissioner will adjust the flows for the remainder of the season.

I have enjoyed my time as your Commissioner and will miss you all very much.